

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants thank Examiner Forman for her time and consideration in discussing the application with the undersigned during the week of February 26, 2007.

During that discussion Examiner Forman indicated that the amendment of October 26, 2006 was entered. In addition, Examiner Forman indicated that the terminal disclaimer filed in the amendment of January 29, 2007 was also entered.

However, Examiner Forman indicated that as the amendment of October 26, 2006 was entered, the amendment filed on January 29, 2007 should have reflected that the changes to the claims made in that amendment should have been shown in "clean form". Accordingly, the present amendment shows those changes made in the amendment of October 26, 2006 in "clean form". In addition, applicants make several minor changes to the claims. Claims 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 have been amended so that they are dependent on allowed claim 44.

Claim 46 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the term "said other end part" that is already present in the claim and indicated as acceptable language in the Advisory Action of November 12, 2006. In this regard, applicants believe that the phrase "wherein one of said end parts is provided with" provides explicit support to the term "said other end part". Applicants understand that this term was implicitly supported by the previous language. However, the amended claim makes this


relationship explicit. Applicant also notes that this recitation is already present in claims 43 and 44 (see 43(a) and 44(a), respectively). Thus, the changes do not raise any new issues that would require further search and consideration of the present application.

In view of the amendment of October 26, 2006, the present amendment, and the foregoing remarks, therefore, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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